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(71) Applicant: **ALCATEL**  
75008 Paris (FR)

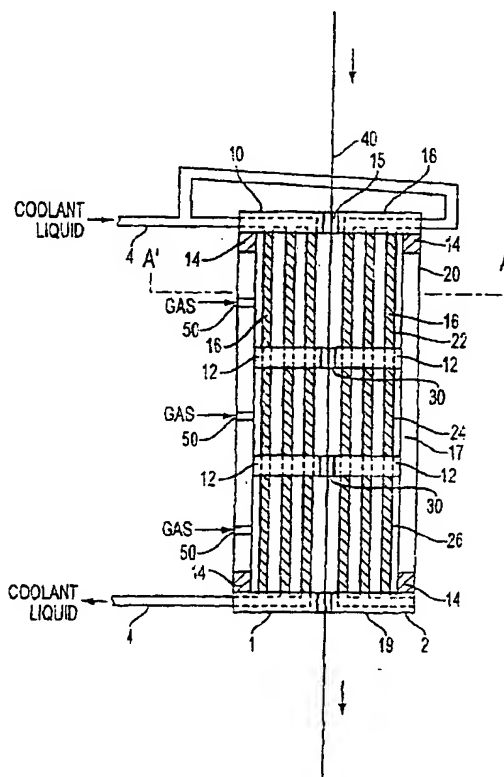
(72) Inventor: **Schuepbach, Olivier**  
Hickory, NC 28601 (US)

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(74) Representative: **Cabinet Hirsch**  
34, Rue de Bassano  
75008 Paris (FR)

(54) **Method and apparatus for cooling an optical fibre during drawing using a multi-chamber cooler**

(57) A method and device for reducing the temperature of an optical fiber, during drawing and prior to coating, wherein a housing body is provided a plurality of inner cooling chambers which are partitioned from each other by a plurality of partition walls. An axial through hole extends through each of the inner cooling chambers from an upper end of the housing body to a lower end of the housing body for the axial passage of an optical fiber therethrough. A plurality of gas injection holes corresponding to the inner cooling chambers are provided in a side wall of the housing body for injecting gas into the inner cooling chambers. A plurality of coolant pipes through which a liquid coolant is circulated extend through each of the inner cooling chambers from the upper end to the lower end of the housing body. The coolant pipes are disposed between the gas injection holes and the axial through hole so that the gas which is injected into the inner cooling chambers via the gas injection holes is not blown directly against the fiber.



**FIG. 1**



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>21 March 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Stroud, J</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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